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Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, TU

SUBJECT: US-TURKEY RELATIONS; PRESS GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPT NOON PRESS BRIEFING NOV 30 RELATING TO NOV 30 NEW YORK TIMES STORY
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(TEXT IN WIRELESS FILE) AND RECENT STATEMENTS BY TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL (ANKARA 8613). TEXT OF RELEVANT PORTION OF PRESS BRIEFING WILL BE SENT SEPARATELY; GUIDANCE ON NYT STORY (PARAS 2 AND 3 BELOW) WAS USED IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS BUT OTHER GUIDANCE WAS NOT DRAWN UPON.

2. Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE NEW YORK TIMES

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STORY THIS MORNING THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS WARNED THE DEPARTMENT THAT UNLESS PROGRESS IS MADE BY EARLY SPRING IN OBTAINING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY U.S. MILITARY FORCES IN TURKEY ARE LIKELY TO BE EXPELLED?

A: NO, THERE HAS BEEN NO SUCH WARNING. INDEED, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN EVERY INDICATION OF BUILDING WITH US A STRONG DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP AND THIS HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR BY STATEMENTS OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEW YORK IN EARLY OCTOBER. THE UNITED STATES SHARES THIS OBJECTIVE OF EARLY

RESTORATION OF A SOUND DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY. I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO DETAILS OF OUR RECENT EXCHANGES WITH THE TURKS, BUT WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE FLEXIBILITY THEY HAVE SHOWN AND BY THEIR INTEREST IN MOVING AHEAD ON ALL MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST.

3. Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE TURKISH AGREEMENT?

A: THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ENDORSED IN PRINCIPLE THE MARCH 1976 DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BUT HAS NOT YET ASKED CONGRESS TO TAKE ACTION. (THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES INTER ALIA FOR DOLS 1 BILLION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE OVER FOUR YEARS.) THE AGREEMENT WAS SUBMITTED TO CONLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

GRESS BY PRESIDENT FORD ON JANUARY 18, 1977. AT THIS STAGE I CANNOT PREDICT WHEN IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO GO FORWARD WITH THE AGREEMENT.

4. Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE US-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT?

A: NEGOTIATION OF THE AGREEMENT WITH GREECE WAS CONCLUDED IN LATE JULY AND THE TEXT WAS INITIALLED. (THE GREEK AGREEMENT INVOLVES DOLS 700 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE OVER FOUR YEARS.) IT HAS NOT YET BEEN SIGNED OR SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT NOW THAT THE GREEK ELECTION HAS TAKEN PLACE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO SIGN THIS AGREEMENT BEFORE LONG.

5. Q: DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON STATEMENTS BY TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL LAST WEEKEND IN WHICH HE URGED EARLY TALKS TO SETTLE THE CYPRUS AND AEGEAN PROBLEMS?

A: WE HAVE NOTED WITH INTEREST THE STATEMENTS MADE BY TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL AND HAVE FOUND SEV-

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ERAL POSITIVE ELEMENTS, ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT FULLY SUB-
SCRIBE TO ALL OF THE POSITIONS HE PUT FORWARD. WE FOUND
PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGING HIS EMPHASIS ON THE DESIRABILITY
FOR AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATING PROCESS,
THE REITERATION OF TURKEY'S INTENTION TO WITHDRAW ITS
TROOPS FROM CYPRUS WHEN A SETTLEMENT IS REACHED, THE NEED
TO FIND A SOLUTION WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT ALL ASPECTS
OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, INCLUDING BOTH A TERRITORIAL
SOLUTION AND A NEW CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT, AND THE
IDEA OF DEVELOPING MEANS OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPE-
RATION BETWEEN THE TWO CYPRUS COMMUNITIES. WE WOULD HOPE
THAT THESE INDICATIONS OF TURKISH INTEREST IN MOVING
AHEAD WITH THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, WILL BE REFLECTED IN ACTUAL

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PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

6. Q: WHAT ABOUT CAGLAYANGIL'S SUGGESTION OF FOUR-PARTY
TALKS INVOLVING THE TWO CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES, TURKEY AND
GREECE AS A MEANS TO RESOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. HAS THE
DEPARTMENT ENDORSED SUCH AN IDEA?

A: WE BELIEVE THAT THE MOST APPROPRIATE NEGOTIATING
FORUM CONTINUES TO BE THE ESTABLISHED INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL.
WE BELIEVE THAT PARTICIPATION BY ANY OTHER PARTIES IS A
MATTER TO BE DECIDED BY THEM. VANCE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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